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Lawyer on Grand Larceny charges

Story on page 5

Audrey Thomas

Allegedly Siphoned Money From Escrow Bank Account then transferred funds to second account and drained it down to $25; Faces Up to 15 years in prison if convicted.

How You Can Help Social Security Protect Others!

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Hundreds attend 47 Precinct National Night Out Against Crime

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Judge Picks Mount Vernon's Interim Mayor

See Page 5

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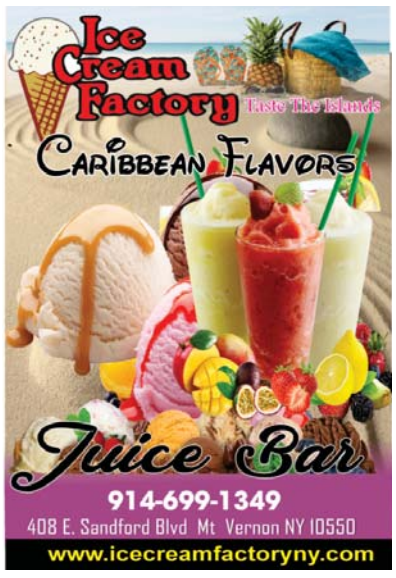

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EDITORIAL

The world is going crazy?

What to do as a Christian

In my many conversations with Christians and non-Christians, I often find that despite our beliefs, many are currently hurting in a variety of ways.

I, of course, do not have the answers for everything and I have yet to find the one person who does. Conversely, I do not know what every person is dealing with on an individual basis, but what I do know is this.

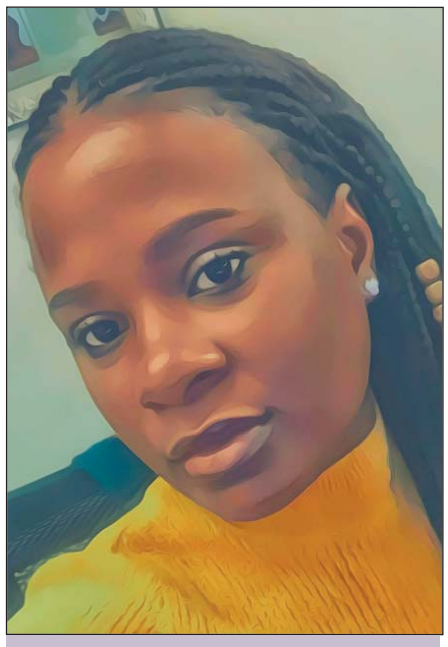
Everyone is seeking a way out, and everyone is looking for answers. If you are in the middle of a crisis now, whether it is financial, marital, parental, mental, spiritual, and physical; perhaps you are searching for an identity. There is Hope.

If you should read the bible or speak with someone who is reading the bible, you would meet the Psalmist David. He fought many battles, and he made a lot of mistakes on his journey.

Nevertheless, he knew that seeking God for Guidance was crucial in his decision-making. In Psalm 86:11, He said, "Teach me your way, Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name."David knew God and his ways. He recognized that having a heart that is only directed towards God would allow him to get the Lord's attention. He understood the need to fear God and to follow His commandments.

Every Christian should follow David's prayer in this Psalm. If you are a Christian, who proclaims to love the Lord, it is time to develop a deeper relationship with Jesus. Follow Christ and his ways, throw out the idols, move away from religious activities, and seek his heart.

Maybe your crisis was brought on because of disobedience, hasty decisions, the need for acceptance, and so forth.



By Solemn_Vow
editor@streethype.net

Today, Jesus is asking all the people who are called by his name, to humble their selves, seek his face, pray and turn from their wicked ways, and he will heal the land.

What if the world's craziness is a sign and a call for help for the people of God to rise? Let's move beyond viewing everything only from a physical standpoint and let Jesus reveals the spiritual work behind whatever is creating havoc in your life and society. As a mandate, let's not forget to tell someone about Jesus because in doing so, it will solve an unspoken problem.

To my skeptics, there is much out there that has not been revealed. Let's think beyond what is presented before you, search for the truth that many have found once they started to ask the right questions.

There is hope, and Christ is the Hope of the world. Grace and Peace.

The opinions expressed in this newspaper, except for the above, do not necessarily reflect the views of Street Hype Newspaper and its publishers. Please send your comments and or suggestions to editor@streethypenewspaper.com. Responses should be no longer than 400 words. Not all articles will be published.

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KADIA-LOY KNIGHT: Editor
Consulting Editors:
GLORIA BENT; PAULETTE GRANT;
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Business office:
Street Hype Newspaper
329 Miller Place, Mount Vernon, NY 10550
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CARIBBEAN NEWS

Dismissed T&T minister to on fraud charges

Port of Spain, T&T:

Trinidad and Tobago's dismissed minister of public administration Marlene McDonald is expected to appear in court on Monday.

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) gave instructions for Ms McDonald and her co-accused to be charged with several offences of conspiracy to defraud.

The others are her husband, Michael Carew, Victor McEachrane, Wayne Anthony and Edgar Zephrine.

A statement from the police said they are being charged with several offences to defraud the government, and offences of money laundering.

However, the police statement said Ms. McDonald will face a charge of misbehaviour in public office.

Marlene McDonald

DPP senior counsel Roger Gaspard told the Caribbean Media Corporation that he had advised the police to lay the charges against the five.

Times Square NYC Welcomes Jamaica's Minister of Tourism

Minister of Tourism Edmund Bartlett was welcomed to NYC by Times Square NYC, on Sunday, August 11th. The billboard, located on Broadway and 43rd Street, in the heart of Times Square featured the message for five minutes, exposing Jamaica to an international audience.

Times Square is the most visited place globally with 360,000 pedestrian visitors a day, amounting to over 131 million a year. Even excluding residents from the visitor count, Times Square is the world's second most visited tourist attraction, behind the Las Vegas Strip.

Minister Bartlett is in New York to to meet with the United Nations' division of partners, potential tourism investors and media partners. He also celebrated Jamaica's Independence at the New York Black Tie Gala, where he was a special guest.

Edmund Bartlett

NEWS

Jamaica 57 Independence Black Tie Gala

Jamaican Olympian Bryon LaBeach (c), a member of the Jamaican relay team at the1952 Helsinki Olympics, accepts his Living Legend Award from Devon Harris, a member of the Jamaica Bob Sled team (l) and President of the Jamaica Independence Gala Society, Stephon Mair, at the Jamaica 57 Independence Black Tie Gala held at the Hilton Westchester Hotel in Rye, New York on August 10, 2019. Mair pointed to the importance of brand Jamaica and noted that the gala was held in honor of Jamaicans within Diaspora who continuously promote Brand Jamaica. -Photo by Derrick Scott

Man Charged with Placing False Bombs in Manhattan

Larry Griffin, 26 was picked up early Saturday morning in the Longwood section of the Bronx. Investigators tell us he and one other person were taken to a nearby hospital for evaluation, after police were tipped off. Griffin is now charged with three counts of placing false bombs, a felony.

"Really, he's a good person. He's got issues but he no mean no harm or anything," the family member said. "Just sometimes, I don't understand why he don't use his smart for good. But the things that he's done, sometimes I've questioned. Whether it's tools or fishing poles or something like that, he'll pick up one thing and leave it there and then pick up another and then leave it there, and I've watched him do stuff like that a bunch of times."

The discovery of the rice cookers led to massive transit delays on Friday, and street closures during the morning rush. All three were deemed safe by the NYPD. Griffin is also expected to be charged for a case in West Virginia, where police say he showed obscene videos to a young girl.

Court blocks Trump's immigration policy

A U.S. appeals court on Friday dealt a setback to the Trump administration attempt to bar almost all asylum applications at the U.S.-Mexico border, but stopped short of applying its decision nationwide.

While ruling against a provision of President Donald Trump's hardline anti-immigration policy, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said the decision would only apply to the nine Western states that make up the Circuit, only two of which - California and Arizona - are on the southern border.

That left open the possibility that the sweeping ban, which requires most asylum-seekers to first seek safe haven in a third country, could be applied in the border states of Texas and New Mexico.

The appellate court ruling came on the same day California and other states, as well as a coalition of advocacy groups, filed lawsuits to stop a separate Trump initiative to reduce legal immigration by denying visas to poor migrants.

The flurry of legal activity is attempting to halt major policy moves by the Trump administration to crack down on immigration, an issue central to the Republican president's political fortunes.

NEWS

Lawyer on grand larceny charges

By Kimmy Blair
Street Hype Writer
————————

Popular Jamaican born attorney Audrey Thomas, 49 of a Rogers Avenue addresses in Brooklyn was charged on July 29 with grand larceny for allegedly stealing more than $200,000 from a client following the sale of residential property in Brooklyn.

According to acting Queens District Attorney John M. Ryan, Thomas turned herself into law enforcement and was arraigned several hours later before Queens Criminal Court Judge Karen Gopee. The attorney was later released on her recognizance and ordered to return to court on September 12, 2019. If convicted, the defendant faces up to 15 years in prison.

According to the charges, in May of 2013, a Brooklyn woman hired Thomas to represent her in the sale of a home she owned on Madison Street in Brooklyn. The contract for the sale of the property was $1 million, and during the closing in November of 2013, several checks were issued.

The defendant was to hold all funds in escrow for the client. The checks were deposited into the defendant's Bank of America account, but in May of 2014, that account was closed, and the balance was transferred into a JP Morgan Chase account.

Audrey Thomas, 49
Defendant Allegedly Siphoned some $200,000 from Escrow Bank Account

Over time, Thomas allegedly engaged in a pattern of activity depleting the account and using the funds for both personal and business expenses. By November of 2014, the Chase bank account balance was down to just $25. Thomas, when confronted by the victim's daughter, allegedly stated in sum and substance that she had lost all proceeds from the sale of the home.

Acting District Attorney Ryan said, "The defendant, in this case, was trusted to handle a complex real estate sale and to hold the money in escrow on behalf of her client. Instead, the lawyer is accused of slowly siphoning funds from the bank account. Over time, the cash in that account was depleted to nearly nothing. This defendant is alleged to have acted without regard for her client to benefit her greed. Such alleged actions cannot go unpunished."

"It should be noted that a criminal complaint is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty," Acting District Attorney Ryan said.

Drunk driver gets Nine years

A 36-year-old Bronx man has been sentenced to three to nine years in prison following his guilty plea to manslaughter for fatally pinning a coworker against a wall while drunkenly trying to park a van at a South Slope job site.

District Attorney Gonzalez said, "This defendant's recklessness in drinking and driving took the life of a beloved man who was a husband, a father and a brother. The defendant's actions changed the lives of his victim's devastated family forever, leaving them heartbroken. He has now been held accountable for this senseless death."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Leonel Ortega-Flores, 36, of Fordham Heights in the Bronx. He was sentenced today to three to nine years in prison by Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Martin Murphy. The defendant pleaded guilty to second-degree manslaughter before Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Matthew Sciarrino on August 1, 2019.

Judge Picks Mount Vernon's Interim Mayor

MOUNT VERNON:

State Supreme Court Justice Lawrence Ecker last week ruled that the Mount Vernon City Council's first pick for interim mayor to replace Mayor Richard Thomas would get to keep the job till a new mayor is elected in November and sworn in in January.

The judge said that Andre Wallace as city council president, was the appropriate person under the city charter to step in, and that the residents of Mount Vernon should not have to endure the political infighting.

City Council President Andre Wallace was appointed to replace Thomas, whom the council booted after he pleaded guilty to campaign fraud.

The City Council then tried to rescind the appointment a few weeks later, after Wallace began making personnel changes and consolidating control of some of the city's finances into the mayor's office without consulting them.

Their second appointment was Lisa Copeland, who had become acting city council president when Wallace ascended. The City Council found themselves aligned against Wallace and his ally City Comptroller Deborah Reynolds, who is infamous in City Hall for her fighting with Thomas.

Wallace wishes to be elected mayor permanently. He was soundly defeated in the Democratic primary but has the Republican ballot line in the November general election, where he will face off against Shawyn Patterson-Howard.

Andre Wallace
Ruled that the Mount Vernon City Council's first pick for interim mayor to replace Mayor Richard Thomas

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How You Can Help Social Security Protect Others

by Darlynda Bogle
Assistant Deputy Commissioner
Social Security Administration

Scams have become an unfortunate part of doing business online or via phone. Many people have received a call or voicemail from someone warning them that their Social Security number or benefits are suspended due to suspicious activity.

It's an alarming scam and one we must help people identify so that they do not become the next victim.

We, at Social Security, are serious about protecting the information entrusted to us. In the past year, we've posted a series of blogs about how our beneficiaries can protect their information from scammers and what to do when they receive a call from someone pretending to be us.

We are teaming up with other government agencies and organizations to help spread these tips. Most recently, we worked with the Federal Trade Commission and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to create a new fraud prevention placemat to help you avoid Social Security scams.

We've also worked with the Administration for Community Living and the Office of the Inspector General to develop and publish educational resources to help the public spot these schemes and avoid becoming victims themselves. The resources include a video, factsheets, and materials on how we can protect the elderly from fraud.

These resources are free and easily shareable. You can find the video about how you can help Social Security protect your information on our website. You can download the factsheet Protecting Your Information by visiting the Office of the Inspector General's website.

You can also check out the National Center on Elder Abuse for materials about preventing the financial exploitation of our older citizens.

We believe that knowing how to tell the difference between a scam and a genuine call from Social Security is important. You can help us protect the people you serve. These are some things to remember:

• Don't answer calls from numbers you don't recognize.

• Never give out personal information such as your account numbers, passwords, Social Security number, mother's maiden name, or other identifying information if a call seems suspicious.

• Government employees will not threaten to take away benefits or ask for money or personal information to protect your Social Security card or benefits.

• If you receive a call from someone asking for your Social Security number, bank account number, or credit card information, don't engage this caller. Instead, hang up and report that information to the Office of Inspector General via their online fraud-reporting form. You should also report these calls to the Federal Trade Commission.

• Scammers are hard at work every day. Together, we can help safeguard the American public. Please help us spread the word.

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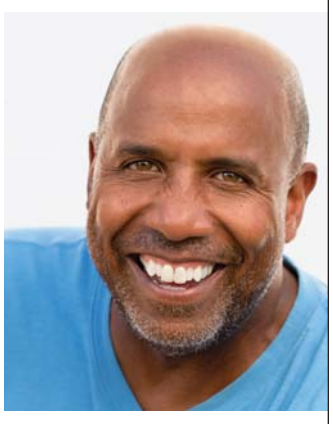

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ENTERTAINMENT

Ky-Mani Marley sets off for US concert tour

By KaSheba Johnson

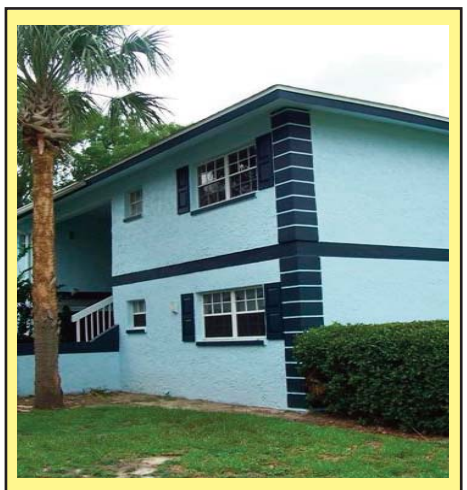
St. Louis Missouri:

Known widely by his alias as "The Top Shotta" aka "The Maestro" – in essence, the 11th Son of Bob Marley, Ky-Mani Marley has embarked on a U.S. Tour, Taking the South-West by Storm! Arguably the most versatile of the Marley Brothers, with music genre credits including everything from Roots, Rock, Reggae, Hip-Hop, Country, Spanish, Dancehall to R&B!? It's no wonder he was given the name: Maestro!

Ky-Mani along, with his band, Konfrontation— is trailblazing the way, giving fans two hour live-performances including well, all types of music! Delivering on a variety of his father's classics, from "Three Little Birds," to "Could You Be Loved?" to "I Shot the Sheriff" etc. Ky-Mani, then goes on to serenade the audience with original music ballads, "Rasta Love" & "The Conversation," which are more R&B influenced tunes. Ultimately 'the Maestro' moves on to more of a Hip-Hop vibe with songs: "The March" and "Ghetto Soldier," both of which embody the essence of, "Biggs"— the role Ky-Mani starred in, in the cult classic: SHOTTAS.

Ky-Mani Marley

Currently working on his most diverse 'in studio' album to date—Ky-Mani is also producing a 'live album' —which will highlight new production elements that are reflective of Bob Marley's influence and will prove to be creatively unmatched, but much like his father's music, will prove … "Timeless."



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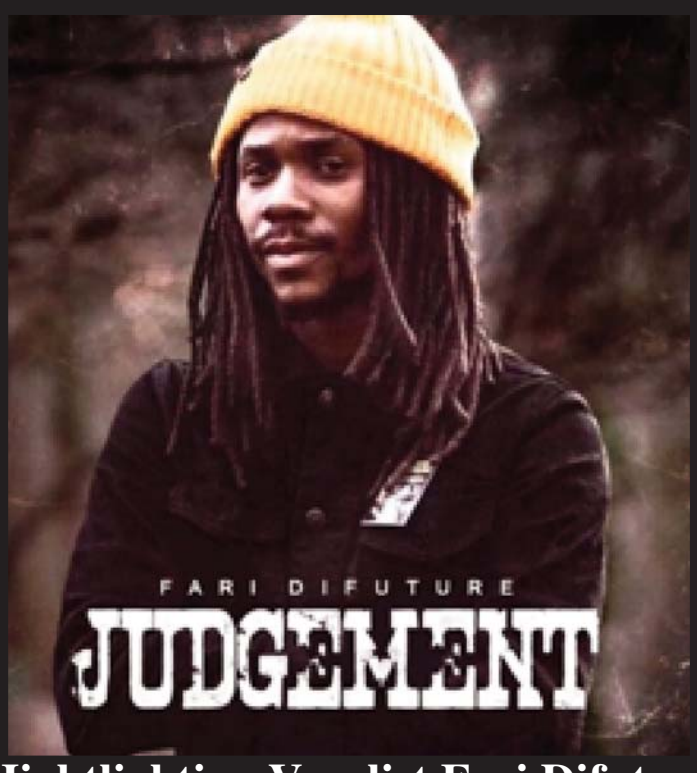

Hightlighting Vocalist Fari Difuture

Vocalist Fari Difuture delivers in this pulsating New Single. It highlights the harsh reality of everyday people. The young singer teams up with Micah Henry of sc-21 productions, to create the single Entitled "Judgment" available on all platforms.

Fari Difuture's UPK
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Lady Peace MN's new music video was released on July 21, 2019 "Starting Over" from the 2018 EP, "Breakthrough Today".

Lady Peace MN has evolved as an artist and includes as music genres, Reggae, Gospel and R&B as forms of musical styles. The second time around God has transformed her life, and her music. Lady Peace MN is a woman in love with life, living each day on purpose.

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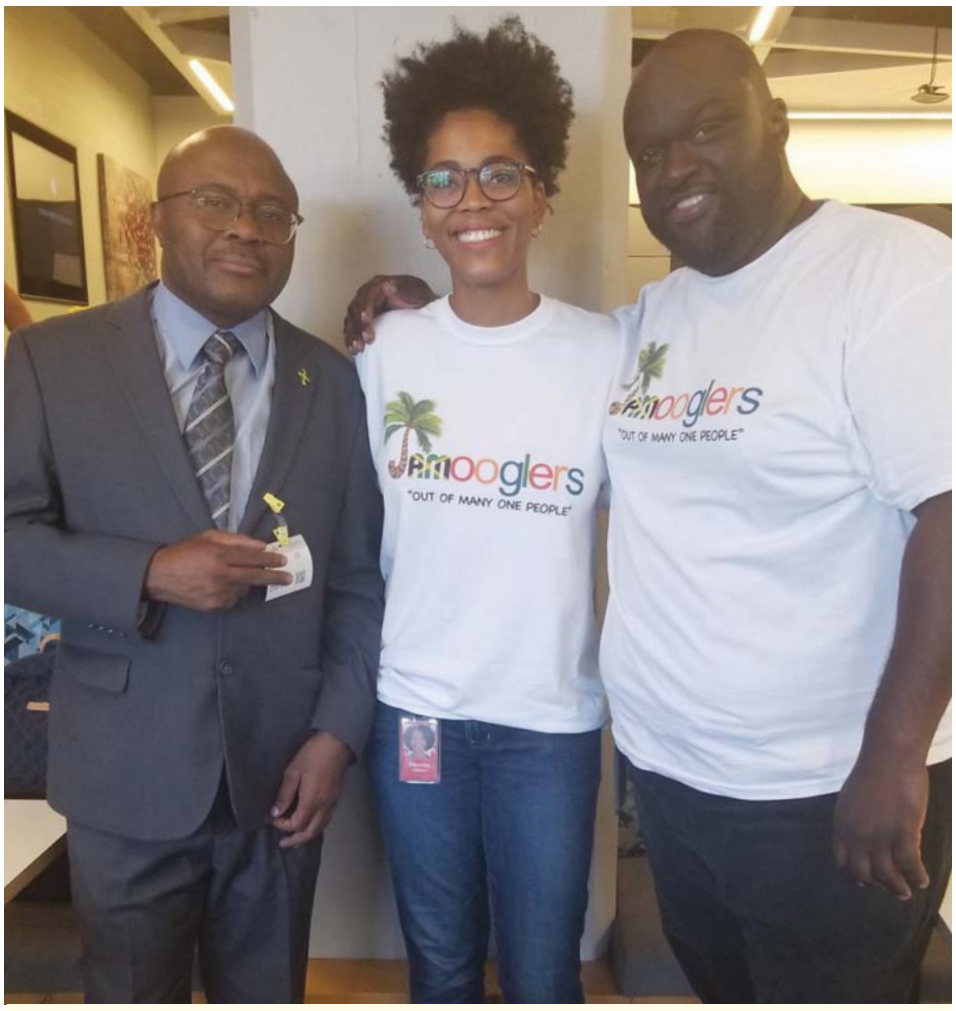

GOOGLE CELEBRATES JAMAICA'S 57TH INDEPENDENCE: Patrick Maitland, CRO at the Consulate General of Jamaica poses with Jamaican born Google's Project Manager Decoda Johnson and Software Engineering Manager Richard Harris at the New York City, Google's campus at a Jamaica's 57th Independence Anniversary celebration party held on Thursday on August 8. Several hundred other Google staff from various culture and nationalities sampled Jamaican food and drinks as they enjoyed the island's cultural presentations.

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Hundreds attend 47 Precinct National Night Out Against Crime

By Patrick Maitland
Street Hype Writer

Several hundred members of the North Bronx community participated in the National Night out Against Crime organized by New York Police Department (NYPD) and the 47 Precinct Community Council.

The commanding officer of the 47 Precinct, Inspector Erik Hernandez noted that National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships to help make the neighborhoods safer. "It seeks to strengthen the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement, fostering a true sense of community," he added.

Members of the 47 Precinct, including the commanding, patrol, community affairs, neighborhood coordination, crime prevention, and youth officers interacted with neighbors, community and local business leaders who all have the common goal of neighborhood safety.

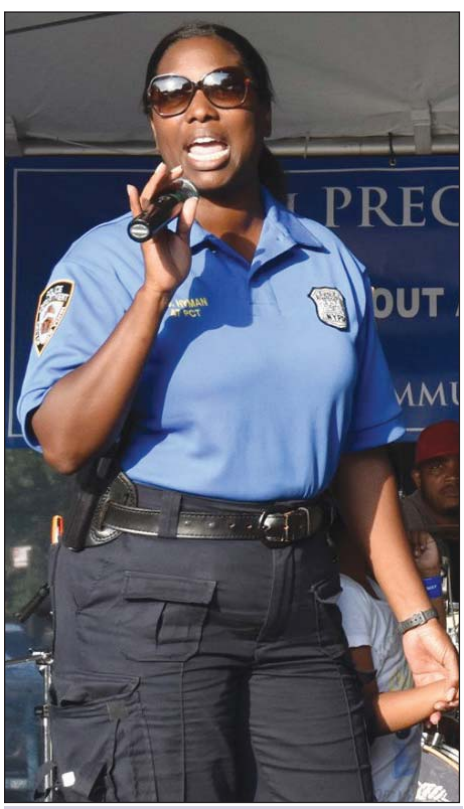
Community members participated in games and other activities for youth, while they enjoy bounce houses, face painting, food, and other entertainment.

Adults were given information on ways to get involved in working with the NYPD, to keep the neighborhood safe. Several businesses and organizations also disseminated information on educational, health, nutrition, and job opportunities.

Political and community leaders including Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark; Speaker of the New York State Assembly Carl Heastie; The Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.; Senator for the 36th District of the New York Senate, Jamaal Bailey; and U.S. Representative for New York's 16th congressional district, Eliot Lance Engel were among the attendees.

Members of the 47 Precinct Community Council (l-r) Norbert Bryan; Audrey Berry; Pamela Johnson and Sherene Hall along with Bronx Borough Liaison at Office of the New York City Comptroller, Victor R. Martinez (4th l) and Inspector Erik Hernandez.

President of the 47 Precinct Community Council Pamela Johnson and Commanding Officer of the 47 Precinct Inspector Erik Hernandez lead the peace march on Laconia Avenue, Bronx.



Community Affairs Officer Varnisha Hyman

New York Senate Jamaal Bailey poses with President Pamela Johnson.

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr plays a game of chess with the kids.

New York State Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie with his daughter and a member of the community.

Community Affairs/Officer Dave Belle and Crime Prevention Officer Jason Soto rap with their colleague inspector.

A chef from Ultimate Grill prepares jerk chicken for the patrons.

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SPORTS

All Girls Basketball Games for August 10

The All Girls basketball games will be held on Saturday August 31st at 12 p.m at the Gun Hill Playground (Between Magenta and Holland) in the Bronx. Contact Barbara Gibson at 347 847 1817 for details.

Americans protest on medals stand at Pan Am Games

Lima, Peru:

Two Americans used their medal-winning moments at the Pan American Games to draw attention to social issues back home that they feel are spiraling out of control.

During their medals ceremonies at the sports festival in Lima, fencer Race Imboden took a knee and hammer thrower Gwen Berry raised her fist. Both athletes could represent the US less than a year from now at the Tokyo Olympics, where similar protests would be seen by a much wider audience.

"Racism, gun control, mistreatment of immigrants, and a president who spreads hate are at the top of a long list" of America's problems, Imboden said in a tweet sent after his team's foil medals ceremony. "I chose to sacrifice my moment today at the top of the podium to call attention to issues that I believe need to be addressed. "I encourage others to please use your platforms for empowerment and change."

Berry raised her fist as America's national anthem was played to honor her win in the hammer throw. She called out injustice in America "and a president who's making it worse."

The actions by Berry and Imboden will test the US Olympic and Paralympic Committee's resolve to enforce rules that restrict political protests.

Fraser-Pryce takes PanAm Games 200m in record 22.43

Kingston, Jamaica:

Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce smashed the 40 year-old Pan-American Games women's 200 meter record as she cruised to the gold medal in 22.43 seconds (-0.1m/s) on the second-to last-day of track and field in Lima, Puerto Rico.

Fraser-Pryce won Jamaica's fifth gold and 12th medal as she streaked away from the field in the first half of the race before easing across the lime to beat the old record of 22.45 seconds set in 1979 by American Evelyn Ashford in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Brazil's Vitoria Cristina took the silver with a personal best 22.62 seconds and the bronze went to Bahamian Tynia Gaither. Meanwhile, Andre Ewers was eighth in the men's 200m after a fast start, running 20.91 seconds (-1.0m/s) as Ecuador's Alex Quinonez pulled off a mild surprise, winning in 20.27 seconds.

Chris Gayle poses before taking the field for his 300th ODI

Gayle passes Lara's Windies run record in 300th ODI

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago:

Chris Gayle on Sunday, August 11th became the all-time highest West Indian run-scorer in one-day international cricket.

Going into the second ODI of the three-match series against India at the Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad needing just nine runs to surpass the tally of 10,405 by Brian Lara, the 39-year-old opening batsman played with exaggerated care for 21 deliveries before slashing left-arm seamer Khaleel Ahmed to the backward-point boundary to reach 11, lifting his overall tally to 10,408.

However, he was dismissed without adding to that score in the very next over, trapped leg-before by right-arm fast-medium bowler Bhuvneshwar Kumar to have the West Indies at 45 for one in the tenth over replying to India's total of 279 for seven.

This match was already an historic landmark for Gayle as it is his 300th ODI, taking him past Lara's 299 as the most by a West Indian in the 50 overs-per-side format. Having made his senior West Indies debut in an ODI against India in Toronto almost 20 years earlier, where he batted at number four in the order, Gayle had initially announced that he would be retiring from the format after the 2019 World Cup in England.

Young Reggae Girlz win CFU Challenge Series

Jamaica's national Under-14 girls football team are champions of the Caribbean Football Union (CFU) Age Group Challenge Cup after defeating Bermuda 6-1 on Friday. Tyesha Nelson opened the scoring in the 6th minute before Tiny Seaton doubled the Jamaicans' advantage in minute 23.

Bermuda pulled one back in the 34th minute through Katherine Bean to make it 2-1 going into the break. But Jamaica stretched their lead to 3-1 three minutes after the half time break when Dannique Wilson scored. Natoya Atkinson continued her fine goal-scoring form when she made it 4-1 in the 56th minute.

The Jamaicans continued to press the throttle when Akelia Johnson scored four minutes later. Ten minutes later it was 6-1 with Janiel Mignott scoring for the young Reggae Girlz. The tournament serves as preparation for next year's CONCACAF Girls Under-15 Championship in Florida.

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Jamaican former NBA player joins 76ers as development coach

Former NBA all-star and Jamaican international Roy Hibbert will join the Philadelphia 76ers as a player development coach for the upcoming season. The 7 foot 2 inch Hibbert will work with all-star centre Joel Embiid and forward Al Horford.

The 76ers lost in the semi-finals of the Eastern Conference playoffs after losing to the eventual champions Toronto Raptors. Hibbert played 10 seasons in the NBA for the Indiana Pacers, Los Angeles Lakers, Charlotte Hornets and Denver Nuggets.

He was named to two all-star teams during his time in Indiana and helped them to 20 straight Eastern Conference finals in 2013 and 2014 but lost to the Lebron James-led Miami Heat. Over the course of his career, Hibbert averaged 10 points, 6.3 rebounds and 1.7 blocks.

Hibbert who was born in New York, played for Jamaica's national team and captained them in the 2010 CAC Basketball Championship.

NEW JERSEY NEWS

Jamaican Citizenship & Passport Drive:

Members of the Jamaican diaspora community in Orange, New Jersey at the "Jamaican Citizenship & Passport Drive," organized by the Consulate General of Jamaica in partnership with Jamaica's Passport, Immigration & Citizenship Agency (PICA) and Jamaica Organization of New Jersey (JON-J). Carol Saunders Hammond, Director of Citizenship, PICA (6th l); Chris Benjamin, Trade and Investment Officer, Jampro (5th l); Debra Simms, President, JON-J (3rd l seated); Tracy Tomlinson-Dixon, Vice President, JON-J (7th l) and Andrea Ashman, Treasurer, JON-J (4th l) are also in photo. Some forty Jamaican nationals were assisted with passport renewal, Jamaican Citizens application as well as information on "Doing Business in Jamaica." The event was held on Thursday (August 15) at the Seventh Day Adventist Church of the Oranges Orange, New Jersey.

New Jersey residents on sex trafficking charges

Jean Noriega, 48, Enna Gonzalez, 53, and John Oyola, 32, of Paterson, New Jersey, were recently charged in a criminal complaint with one count of conspiracy to commit sex trafficking.

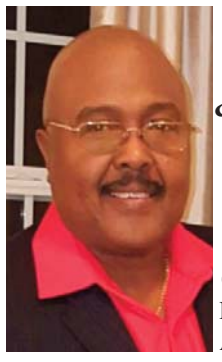
According to the allegations in the complaint, the defendants conspired to coerce multiple women to engage in commercial sex in New Jersey and New York.

Specially, Noriega used violence, threats of violence, threats of drug withdrawal, and other means, to compel the victims to engage in commercial sex for his profit, including after his incarceration in New York in 2017.

Oyola and Gonzalez helped Noriega control the victims through various means, collect the proceeds, and otherwise carry out his sex trafficking activities while Noriega was incarcerated.

Noriega, who is incarcerated in New York on a previous conviction, made his initial appearance today before U.S. Magistrate Judge Thérèse Wiley Dancks in Syracuse federal court in the Northern District of New York. Oyola made his initial appearance Aug. 7, 2019, before U.S. Magistrate Judge Steven C. Mannion in Newark federal court. Gonzalez appeared before Judge Mannion on Aug. 5.

The charges in the complaint are merely allegations, and the defendants are presumed to be innocent unless and until convicted. If convicted of conspiracy to commit sex trafficking, the defendants face a maximum sentence of life imprisonment, a $250,000 fine, and mandatory restitution.



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DAVID WARREN
Contributing Editor
Regional Marketing/
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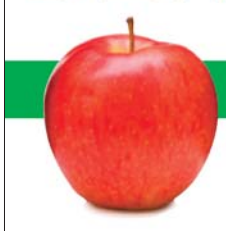

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BEAUTY CARE

10 Easy Tips for Going Natural

ByJanell Hickmanon

1. Getting Started
Kick chemicals to the curb, but first take inventory of what you want to achieve. "Going natural is an emotional journey and can sometimes be a lengthy process," says Curly Texture Expert & Carol's Daughter Brand Stylist Diane Da Costa. "If the scalp has been compromised by chemical relaxers, it may affect the way the hair initially grows back."

2. Nourish from Within
Don't overlook the importance of your diet. "One key tip every natural girl should know: Internal moisture is just as important as external moisture," says Patrice Grell Yursik, creator of Afrobella.com. "If you eat healthy foods, drink water and take good care of yourself, you'll see results in your hair, skin and nails."

3. Build a Tool Arsenal
"When your fingers can't stand up to the job, your wide-tooth comb should be your weapon of choice," says Nicole Walton, creator of CurlyNikki.com. To prevent breakage, detangle hair after using a leave-in treatment or spray. Use shower caps to protect twist outs or during deep-conditioning treatments.

4. All About Oils
"Natural hair tends to be drier due to the curl pattern," says Mezei Jefferson, senior manager of education for SoftSheen-Carson. "Hot oil treatments once a week with a steamer will give hair softness and shine while locking in moisture."

Courtesy of New Beginnings Beauty Salon/Pauline Fairclough

5. Experiment with Extensions
Longing for length? Try extensions as a protective style while rocking different looks, from oversized 'fros to cascading locs. "We created Khinky.com to provide high-quality hair for women with diverse textures," says Khinky Chic Hair Founder Tamara Dumay-Murad.

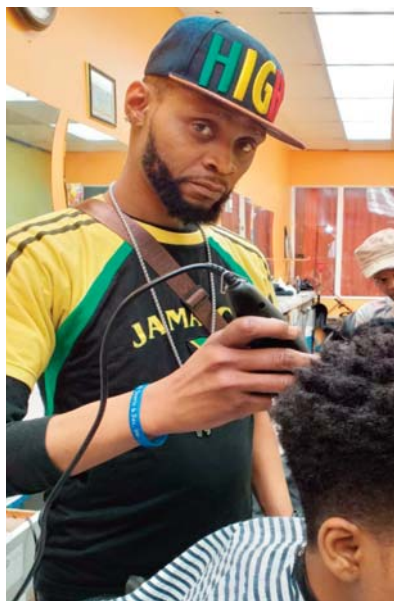
6. Enhance Your Texture
"I like curl-enhancing foams, mousses and creams to add shine and definition," says Oscar James, celebrity stylist for Clear Ultra Shea. Start by dampening hair with a leave-in conditioner, followed by a curl activator, making sure your hair is evenly covered. F

7. Become a Loc Star
Afros and two-strand twists are not your only styling options once you go natural. Braids, locs and Sisterlocks (shown on model) are also fabulous alternatives. "Sisterlocks are about half the size of traditional locs and give you more styling options without the heaviness associated with traditional [ones]," shares Wariesi Flores, owner of Sumptous Locks.

8. Avoid the Suds
Changing your hair requires changing your mindset, especially when it comes to shampooing your locks. "Traditional shampoos are the prime culprits and obstacles to [preventing] naturally drier textures from having great results," shares Anthony Dickey, owner of Hair Rules Salon in NYC. Stick to sulfate-free shampoos and cleansing conditioners that don't produce suds.

9. Condition with Care
Carve out a day each week to create a ritual of deep conditioning your thirsty strands. "Properly conditioned hair allows for easy combing and styling," says Ursula Stephen, Motions global ambassador. "It prevents ripping while combing and increases the overall health of the hair."

10. Get Your Beauty Sleep
"Before you go to bed, you must put a silk scarf on your head to protect the hair from potential split ends that can occur from cotton pillows," says Chris-Tia Donaldson, owner of Thank God I'm Natural hair care products. "If you don't like sleeping with a satin bonnet, then a satin pillowcase is an absolute must-have."



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RELATIONSHIP

The True Meaning of Love in a Relationship

A relationship is composed of many things: friendship, sexual attraction, intellectual compatibility, and, of course, love. Love is the glue that keeps a relationship strong and solid. But how do you know if you are truly in love? Here are some signs that the emotion you are feeling is healthy, life-enhancing love.

1. Love is not lust: Despite the phrase "it was love at first sight", love is not something we feel right away. That strong feeling of attraction, like a magnet pulling you towards that person you've just met? That's infatuation and sexual chemistry. Mother nature gives us a big dose of infatuation in order to get us together initially. Love does include sexual chemistry but it differs because it is an emotion that takes time to build. Lust can appear in an instant; love evolves over a period of time as you get to know the other person inside and out.

2. A relationship without love is not really a fully-faceted relationship: You may be immensely sexually-attracted to your partner but that does not mean you love your partner. If you haven't developed a base of loving feelings with your partner, once the sexual spark dies down, you will become bored.

3. Love, like fine wine, takes time to bloom: A loving relationship is not built in a day. The threads of love take time to weave together to form a strong bond. It is only as you and your partner share your thoughts, fears, dreams and hopes that love takes root. So trust the process and don't rush love. It has its own timetable that needs to be respected and not hurried.

4. Is there only one true love? We talk about "soul mates" but humans are built with the capacity to love over and over again. Thankfully so, or we would never recover from our high school crush, or losing a partner to divorce or death.

5. Love is generous: In a truly loving relationship, we give to the other without an expectation of return. We don't keep an account of who did what for the other. Giving pleasure to our partner gives us pleasure, too.

6. We feel what our partner feels: When we see our partner happy, we feel a sense of joy as well. When we see that they are sad or depressed, we feel their blue mood, too. With love comes empathy for the other person's emotional state.

7. Love means compromise: When we love someone, we are willing to compromise in order to accommodate their needs or desires. But we don't sacrifice our own self in doing this, nor should the other person require us to sacrifice our own self for their personal gain. That's not love; that's control and abuse.

8. Respect and kindness: When we love, we act respectfully and kindly towards each other. We do not intentionally hurt or denigrate our partner. When we talk about them in their absence, it is with such warmth that the listeners can hear the love in our words. We do not criticize our partner behind their backs.

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